

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-19

NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 FEA-02 INT-08 STR-08 DRC-01

/201 W

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R 160800Z JAN 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 723

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: NOVIKOV VISIT

REF: BAGHDAD 653

1. JAN 8-11 VISIT OF SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NOVIKOV AT HEAD OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DELEGATION SEEMS TO HAVE PRODUCED LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE RESULT. VISIT STARTED OUT WITH MAXIMUM PUBLICITY AND MEETING WITH RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN BUT FIZZLED TO AIRPORT SENDOFF BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED.

2. ONE OF MOST CURIOUS ASPECTS OF VISIT WAS DEFINITIVE
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DEPARTURE OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR LIKHACHEV JUST 10 DAYS

BEFORE ARRIVAL OF NOVIKOV. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MAIN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS AND CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT TALKS DID NOT GO WELL.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CERLES RECALLS THAT NOVIKOV CAME IN JUNE 1971 AND PLAYED KEY ROLE IN ENDING BAATH-ICP CONFLICT AND SETTING STAGE FOR APRIL 1972 TREATY. HE BELIEVES THAT SOVIETS FEAR MAJOR RESURGENCE OF WESTERN PRESENCE IN AREA AND ARE READY TO GO ALL OUT TO PROTECT AND FURTHER EXPAND THEIR POSITION IN IRAQ.

4. COMMENT: IRAQ'S GROWING OIL REVENUES AND DISILLUSIONMENT WITH SOVIETS ON KEY POLITICAL ISSUES, SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, MIGHT LOGICALLY LEAD TO LOOSENING OF BILATERAL TIES. NO SUCH DEVELOPMENT SEEMS LIKELY, HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF REGIME'S DOMESTIC PROBLEM WITH KURDS AND ICP, OVER WHICH USSR EXERTS SOME INFLUENCE, AND FEAR OF IRANIAN AGGRESSION. IN IRAQ EYES, SHAH'S APPARENTLY INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR MOST MODERN U.S. ARMS POSES DIRECT MILITARY THREAT TO IRAQ. GOI IN TURN SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO EXPANSION OF ITS MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR AND, ACCORDING TO INDIAN MILITARY ATTACHE SURI, IRAQ IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS AND A/C FROM SOVIETS. LOWRIE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaabkmd.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BAGHDAD 653
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVIKOV VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR, (NOVIKOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005